

Appl. No. 09/911,859

Response date: July 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-36 are pending. In the present Response, claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 22, 23, 31, and 32 have been cancelled and claims 1, 6, 10, 20, and 29 have been amended.

In the Action, claims 3, 9, 13, 23, and 32 were rejected as being obvious in view of Egoshi and Omuro in further view of Tochio. However, Tochio does not teach or suggest the claimed combination of optical to electrical conversion, buffering, and electrical to optical conversion provide delay compensation on the optical protection line. The citations in Tochio teach the measurement of delay in a transmission line using signaling techniques that involve optical to electrical conversion. The claimed invention requires that the information from the protection be converted from optical to electrical format, stored, and then convert back to optical format to provide the require delay in the protection line. The signaling technique of Tochio does not teach at least this aspect of the claimed invention. This is recognized in the Action as unrelated sections of the references are cited as teaching individual parts of the required combination, but the reference is deficient in teaching the claimed combination. The Action also recognizes that this aspect of the claimed invention is not disclosed or taught by Egoshi and/or Omuro, alone or in combination. Applicant submits that Tochio does not overcome the deficiencies.

Independent claims 1, 6, 10, 20, and 29 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 3, 9, 13, 23, and 32. Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 22, 23, 31, and 32 have been cancelled to eliminate duplicative claims in view of the amendments to the independent claims.

In view of the above amendments and response, Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that such action be taken. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this Amendment or to the subject application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

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Applicant believes that no additional fees are due with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, necessitated by this amendment and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500477.

Respectfully submitted,

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